

Do not enter for 1/9/02

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 8-9, 15, 17, 19, 22, 25, and 30-33 and cancel claim 35 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1 - 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An air bearing slider comprising:

a transducer;
a composite slider body with a front portion composed of a first material and a rear portion composed of a second material different from the first material, an air bearing surface formed in the front portion and rear portion and having a change in elevation at wherein an interface that separates the first material front portion and the second material rear portion; and
a transducer basecoat portion attached to formed on and integrated with the rear portion of the slider body and containing the transducer.

4. (Original) The slider of claim 3 wherein a thickness of the first material is as much as about 15 times a thickness of the second material.

5. (Previously presented) The slider of claim 3 wherein a thickness of the first material is as little as about half a thickness of the second material.

6. (Previously presented) The slider of claim 3, wherein the transducer basecoat portion comprises the second material.